

In th Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-20, without prejudice, and add new claims 21-40 as follows:

1-20 (Cancelled)

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21. (New) An eCommerce system for processing requests, comprising:
an application comprising an interface defining request and response format requirements and an invocation method for invoking the application;
an abstract interface corresponding to the interface of the application and defining an abstraction of the request and response format requirements and the invocation method; and
at least one message format data structure defining an interface definition of a message format of a particular eCommerce request that is incompatible with the request and response format requirements of the application, the message format data structure comprising:
protocol information identifying a protocol of the particular eCommerce request;
request type information identifying a type of request of the particular eCommerce request;
request data format information identifying a request schema describing a request format of request data for the particular eCommerce request, wherein the request schema comprises a plurality of input fields;
an input field definition mapping to selected input fields of the plurality of input fields;
response data format information identifying a response schema describing a response format of response data for the particular eCommerce request, wherein the response schema comprises a plurality of output fields; and
an output field definition mapping to selected output fields of the plurality of output fields; and wherein the input field definition and the output field definition are mapped to the abstract interface; whereby the particular eCommerce request can be serviced by the application.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the input field definition identifies a physical location, in the particular eCommerce request, of each of the selected fields of the plurality of input fields.

23. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the output field definition identifies a physical location, in the particular eCommerce request, of each of the selected fields of the plurality of output fields.

24. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the protocol is selected from the group comprising cXML and mXML.

25. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the type of request is a purchase order.

26. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the type of request is selected from a group comprising of a purchase order, a change purchase order, a remote catalog shopping request, an invoice request and a shopping basket content request.

27. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the message format data structure further comprises sub-transaction type information identifying a sub-transaction type.

28. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein selected fields of the input field definition are less than all of the plurality of input fields.

29. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the plurality of input fields includes input fields for at least two different request types and wherein the selected input fields of the input field definition represent only a given one of the at least two request types.

30. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the input field definition comprises a corresponding input field corresponding to each of the selected fields of the plurality of input fields.

31. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein a name of at least one field of the selected fields is different than a name of the corresponding input field corresponding to the at least one field.

32. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein a total number of fields of the selected output fields is less than all of the plurality of output fields.

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33. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the plurality of output fields includes output fields for at least two different request types and wherein the selected output fields represent only a given one of the at least two request types, which request type is the same as represented by the selected input fields.

34. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the application access method is selected from a program call access method, a java access method and a queue application access method.

35. (New) An eCommerce system for processing requests, comprising:
an application comprising an interface defining request and response format requirements and an invocation method for invoking the application;
an abstract interface corresponding to the interface of the application and defining an abstraction of the request and response format requirements and the invocation method; and
at least one message format data structure defining an interface definition of a message format of a particular eCommerce request that is incompatible with the request and response format requirements of the application, the message format data structure comprising:
protocol information identifying a protocol of the particular eCommerce request;
request type information identifying a type of request of the particular eCommerce request;
request data format information identifying a request schema describing a request format of request data for the particular eCommerce request, wherein the

request schema comprises a plurality of input fields for at least two different request types including the type of request of the particular eCommerce request;

input field information identifying at least a portion of the plurality of input fields and identifying a physical location, in a request message, of each input field of at least the portion of the plurality of input fields-wherein the input field information represents only a given one of the at least two request types;

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an input field definition mapping only to selected input fields of the plurality of input fields representing the identified type of request of the particular eCommerce request;

response data format information identifying a response schema describing a response format of response data for the particular eCommerce request, wherein the response schema comprises a plurality of output fields for the at least two different request types; and

an output field definition mapping only to selected output fields of the plurality of output fields representing the identified type of request of the particular eCommerce request; and wherein the input field definition and the output field definition are mapped to the abstract interface; whereby the particular eCommerce request can be serviced by the application.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the type of request is a purchase order.

37. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the input field definition comprises a corresponding input field corresponding to each of the selected input fields of the plurality of input fields, and wherein the output field definition comprises a corresponding output field corresponding to each of the selected output fields of the plurality of output fields.

38. (New) An eCommerce system for processing requests, comprising:

an application comprising an interface defining request and response format requirements and an invocation method for invoking the application;

an abstract interface corresponding to the interface of the application and

defining an abstraction of the request and response format requirements and the invocation method; and

a plurality of message format data structures each defining an interface definition of a message format of a eCommerce request that is incompatible with the request and response format requirements of the application, wherein each message format data structure corresponds to a different eCommerce request and each message format data structure comprises:

protocol information identifying a protocol of a particular eCommerce request comprising input fields and output fields;

request type information identifying a type of request of the particular eCommerce request;

an input field definition mapping to the input fields of the particular eCommerce request; and

an output field definition mapping to the output fields of the particular eCommerce request; and wherein the input field definition and the output field definition are mapped to the abstract interface, whereby the eCommerce requests can be serviced by the application.

39. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein each message format data structure further comprises:

request data format information identifying a request schema describing a request format of request data for the particular eCommerce request, wherein the request schema comprises a plurality of input fields including the input fields of the particular eCommerce request; and

response data format information identifying a response schema describing a response format of response data for the particular eCommerce request, wherein the response schema comprises a plurality of output fields including the output fields of the particular eCommerce request.

40. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein the input field definition comprises a corresponding input field for each of the input fields of the particular eCommerce

request, and wherein the output field definition comprises a corresponding output field for each of the output fields of the particular eCommerce request.